

ORIGINAL

CC DFT 96-95



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
SEP 16 1998

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SEP 18 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Judith Merz
16 Viewpoint Road
Wayne, NJ 07470

Dear Ms. Merz:

Thank you for your electronic mail message to President Clinton expressing your views regarding the implementation of the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The White House has asked me to respond to your message.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted the Joint Board's recommendation to provide discounts for telecommunications services for schools and libraries ranging from 20 to 90 percent, with economically disadvantaged schools and libraries receiving the greatest discounts. The Commission adopted the Joint Board's recommended rule that would give schools and libraries maximum flexibility to apply their universal service discount to whatever package of telecommunications services they believe will meet their needs most effectively and efficiently. In addition to all telecommunications services, discounts may be applied to Internet access and internal connections.

The annual cap for the schools and libraries program is \$2.25 billion. During the first half of 1998, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) was directed to collect \$625 million for the school and libraries mechanism. Schools and libraries should begin to receive discounts this fall.

On June 12, 1998, the Commission revised the funding year for the schools and libraries support mechanism and froze the amount of funding for schools and libraries at current rates. With regard to the schools and libraries support mechanism, the Commission directed USAC to collect and disperse no more than \$325 million per quarter for the third and fourth quarters of 1998 and the first and second quarters of 1999. Because the revised funding amounts will not fully satisfy the estimated demand by the schools and libraries that have submitted applications, the Commission revised the disbursement rules to ensure that the most disadvantaged schools and libraries get priority for support. The annual cap remains unchanged. Although the collection amounts have been revised, we will continue our commitment to provide support to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections.

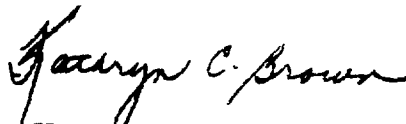
No. of Copies rec'd _____
List A B C D E

Ms. Judith Merz

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The Commission appreciates your interest in this important issue. Your letter will be entered into the public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket 96-45).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kathryn C. Brown

Chief

Common Carrier Bureau

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

7 7 81
DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR: FCC 37

FROM:

SUE J. SMITH *SJS*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT:

REFERRAL OF WHITE HOUSE BULK MAIL

Thank you for your continued hard work in ensuring responses to the Presidential letters and inquiries forwarded to your agency. The volume of mail that the President and Mrs. Clinton receive still remains unprecedented.

Please return any misreferrals to me at the following address:

Ms. Sue J. Smith
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202/456-7486.

Thank you very much.

From merzjudy@cedargrove.k12.nj.us Tue Jul 21 09:31:30 1998
Date: Tue, 21 Jul 1998 06:29:39 -0700 (PDT)
Subject: E-Rate discounts
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Message-id: <199807211329.GAA04825@mail1.eni.net>

Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226
X-Authentication-warning: mail1.eni.net: [198.69.139.7] didn't use HELO protocol

--Boundary_(ID_XZkLeaW652Tku94QGamDpA)
Content-type: TEXT/PLAIN; CHARSET=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

From:

Judith Merz
16 Viewpoint Road
Wayne, NJ 07470

Dear President Clinton

Dear Rep. Pascrell:

As a school administrator, I urge you to support full funding and services for the E-rate telecommunications discounts for schools and libraries and to oppose any further effort to undermine, eliminate, or delay the E-rate program.

In our small school district, more than 85% of the funding for schools comes from local taxes and there is tight scrutiny of budget at all levels. Our board of education is progressive in the area of technology and has worked hard to support a variety

Apart from the political/administrative/fiscal issues involved, however, promises for our children's futures have been broken. I have personally seen the power of telecommunications to engage and involve students in purposeful and exciting research an

I urge your full support of the E-Rate initiative.

Sincerely,

Judith R. Merz, EdD
Assistant Superintendent
Cedar Grove Public Schools
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
and
Parent of Raymond Merz, age 15
Wayne, NJ 07470

--Boundary_(ID_XZkLeaW652Tku94QGamDpA)--